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PATENT  
Attorney Docket No. 02481.1790-01

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of: )  
)  
**Horst ULBRICHT et al.** ) Group Art Unit: 1618  
)  
Application No.: 10/757,433 ) Examiner: B. Fubara  
)  
Filed: January 15, 2004 ) Confirmation No.: 4111  
)  
For: COMPOSITION FOR REMOVING )  
ABNORMAL KERATINOUS )  
MATERIAL )

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

**REPLY TO OFFICE ACTION**

This communication responds to the non-final Office Action mailed on August 25, 2006. Claims 3-6, 8-14 and 30 are pending in this application. Claim 30, the only independent claim, reads as follows:

A method of hydrating brittle toenails or fingernails comprising  
applying to brittle toenails or fingernails a pharmaceutical preparation, in  
the form of a solution, comprising

- a) nonvolatile constituents, which comprise
- urea in an amount from 41 percent by weight to 69 percent by weight, relative to the nonvolatile constituents of the preparation, and
  - a hydrophilic film-forming agent,
- wherein the hydrophilic film-forming agent is a compound selected from among acrylic/methacrylic acid ester copolymers, polyvinylpyrrolidones, polyvinyl alcohols, vinyl acetate/vinylpyrrolidone copolymers, vinyl acetate/crotonic acid copolymers, methyl vinyl ether/maleic acid copolymers, polyesters, polyester amides, carboxymethylcellulose, hydroxyethylcellulose,